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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1918.

### Food Production.

No more significant announcement has been made recently than that the American government will import 60,000 agricultural laborers from Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands (formerly the Danish West Indies).

The war has forced the adoption of a policy which would have meant a political upheaval only a few years ago; and it is a policy, necessary as it is through the threatening shortage of food workers in the United States, that needs to be handled with the greatest delicacy and discretion if it is to be successful.

The importation of contract labor by the government to save the food situation is one of the most drastic steps that could be imagined. It seems to be in violation of existing statutes relating to contract labor, which, happily, have been waived for the time being.

The American people ought to know the facts about the food situation. Mr. Hoover, let it be said en passant, is not dealing in false alarms nor applying restrictions which are not dictated by stern necessity. Europe's crops are going to be radically less this year than they were last year. The International Institute of Agriculture, at Rome, is authority for this statement, and makes an immediate appeal that the United States make an effort to restore the neglected cattle production of the arid States, and that our farm products be substantially increased during the current year.

Of course, 1917 shows such a remarkable advance in production over the preceding year that there can be little criticism of our present showing. Further increases, however, are imperative. The returns of the Department of Agriculture show that the farm products of the United States last year reached a value of \$19,443,849,331, which was more than \$6,000,000,000 over the production of 1916 and \$9,000,000,000 above that of 1915. Food products were 70 per cent of this total of farm products. There was no decrease in cattle production; animals and animal products in 1917 were \$1,500,000,000 above the total of 1916.

What is the outlook for the present year? Barring the shortage of farm labor, it is most promising. An increase of production ranging from 10 to 20 per cent is quite possible if the men to till the soil and gather the harvest can be gotten together. The present administration has shown real statesmanship in handling the labor problem; and there is no doubt it will find an adequate supply of workers for the farms, even if it has to resort to conscription to do so, or to issue an appeal to the country.

Transportation, at present a serious hindrance to the food producers, should be well under control before the harvest season rolls around. There is no real reason why the American farmer should not rise magnificently to the world crisis that confronts him.

### Closing the Schools.

The action of Acting Fuel Administrator Colladay in ordering the schools of the District closed, is the most logical step that has yet been taken by the Fuel Administration. This does not mean that we are in any way pleased in seeing our schools closed, but as this coal crisis demands drastic action, we think that closing of the schools can be accomplished with less harm than the former edicts of the fuel dictators.

It is a pity that such a condition exists, for American progress has been due more to its educational activities than any other one thing and we hesitate to interrupt its good effects.

But if we will look at it in the light of a necessity, and if the school authorities will face the enforced idleness as hours which must be made up later, no lasting ill effects will be noticed. The time of closing might be lengthened somewhat with the understanding that extra time will be tacked on the school days of the warmer months of spring.

By this means the coal situation may be cleared to a large extent and with the least possible injustice. But, we must insist that these lost hours be recovered at a later date. The protection of our youth demands that.

### To Put Down Ruthlessness.

Just one year ago, Germany declared ruthless warfare by her U-boats. She announced that international law and that common rights of all the peoples of the world were abolished. She drew a line about certain regions of the high seas and threatened to slay all peaceful, as well as warring peoples caught therein.

It was a plain declaration of barbarism, and, as such, warranted the armed resistance of the whole world. Whoever started the war, whatever started it, that declaration justified any nation on earth that had the courage to do it in warring on Germany.

The United States waited. It admired the German people for their industry and their contribution to progress in the arts and sciences. It had long enjoyed the advantages of enormous and amicable trade with them. It was inconceivable that Germany would carry out so brutal a threat. Our country was unprepared and knew the frightful cost of war.

The Lusitania had been sunk, our government had been repeatedly outraged, deceived and conspired against by the Teutonic autocracy at home and abroad, but still it was impossible to believe that a great nation had deliberately adopted barbarism as a national policy. That fact, however, was soon demonstrated. The U-boats mercilessly destroyed passenger ships, hospital ships and the trade ships of almost every nation having such. It was barbarism rampant, indiscriminate and foul. It attacked the lives, property, rights and happiness of all peoples not a party to it. To neglect to put it down was to consent to world-slavery, to agree

to the vile, fallacious axiom that might alone is right. It brought on our war with Germany. It was enough, even had we not the slightest vision of a world made better by more of democracy.

### Amelita Galli-Curci.

Not since that night fifteen years ago when Caruso made his first appearance as the Duke of Mantua, has the opera world witnessed such a complete triumph, as that accorded Amelita Galli-Curci at the Lexington Theater on Monday night when she made her New York debut in "Dinorah."

Thoughts of lost days when the music world had listened to such wondrous coloratura sopranos as Sembrich and Tetrazzini were recalled vividly as this new luminary made of a prosaic opera a role than fairly breathed poetry.

Two short years ago the new star was unknown and unheeded, but she has been gradually taking the country by storm, and New York in its final judgment and commendation, is months behind other cities that have been fortunate enough to hear in concert this young Italian girl who has now arrived. Washington long since put its stamp of approval upon the singer and her New York triumph more than bears out the Capital praise.

"Baker lunches with Chamberlain." Attaboy!

Will somebody please page Mr. Sherman's Law?

Why doesn't some enterprising Washingtonian promote a "ski" tournament?

We don't hear much of the Johnny Ferris Ice Wagon Club in this weather.

Any Yankee Doodle Doo can see that McAdoo'll do—and do." Ouch!

Wonder if Weaver had a conference with the weather man before going South?

The Herald's circulation is increasing so fast that we don't care who talks about it.

"Woman with Six Husbands Dead Is Held for Bigamy," says a headline. It surely is hard to break a habit.

We suspect Mr. Baker of having a journalistic past. He knows how to get a headline out of every statement.

When Chairman McChord starts after anything he usually delivers—but coal on a frigid siding doesn't fill his bunkers.

Kaiser declares a new restricted zone for U-boats. Big news—Kaiser's restricted zones extend to wherever he sees a ship.

A reader writes that there is no use tagging his shovel as he has already tied a bow of ribbon on it and hung it up in the parlor.

Some years ago a big St. Louis brewer advertised that he used 325 tons of coal daily and some scrap-book fiend has uncorked the fact. Some "hold-over."

"I had a good seat in a Georgetown car which was well lighted and heated, and had a polite conductor," said a citizen. "But just then I awakened," he continued.

We read that somebody's air-cooled automobile has proven a success in a trip from Canton to New York. We'll say that if this air failed to cool it no air ever could.

Some of us are saved nights of embarrassment by the school closing order. When we are asked to do easy sums and are "stumped," it is humiliating. Isn't it?

Simultaneously with the news of revolt in Germany, comes a report that the supply of beer in the Kaiser's domain has been exhausted. Another case of cause and effect.

Just when we were complimenting the railways on their work during the snowstorm, the Fourteenth street owl missed a trip yesterday morning and we had to walk home.

A phone call from a subscriber: "There is no heat in my house and my babies are crying with the cold. There is a carload of coal on a railroad track near my home. Would it be wrong if I took some of it?"

We assured her that she would be breaking the law if she took the coal—but offered to hold the bucket while she shoveled it.

### Had Him Cornered.

Senator Thomas J. Walsh, of Montana, told this story of a social gathering as an illustration that some of the little folks easily remember the things they are told at Sunday school.

Recently a small party named Bessie was disordered, and her uncle, who happened to be at the house at that time, looked at the little girl reprovingly.

"Bessie," said he, "I am afraid that I don't love you any more."

"You can't help it," was the defiant declaration of Bessie. "You have got to love me."

"I have got to," responded the uncle, wondering what was running in the child's mind. "Why have I got to?"

"Because," was the prompt response of Bessie, "you have to love them that hate you, and goodness knows I hate you, all right."

### FRONT LINE.

Standing on the fire-step.

Harking into the dark.

The black was filled with figures.

His comrades could not mark.

Because it was softly snowing.

Because it was Christmaside.

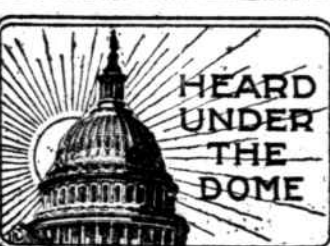
He saw three figures passing.

Glittering in their pride.

## TOM SAWYER AND HUCKLEBERRY FINN By DWIG.



Undress in the dark.



HEARD UNDER THE DOME

Why not a nonpartisan program for making America's war more effective?

Why not a program that will include in it a number of measures tending to improve our internal affairs, and thus directly strengthen us for the contest against Germany?

Members talk of it loudly in the halls—the wise ones of each party—but they add regretfully that they do not believe it would be possible to put over such a program.

"Of course it would be the most desirable thing in the world," said one member last night. "It would be good to unite the country around our cause, to bring early victory and to bring everlasting results which would follow the war—but it is impossible to do it."

And another member spoke in this fashion: "There is no question but that a nonpartisan American program decided upon by the leaders of both parties, at this time, could be put over and in ample time to allow Congress to adjourn not later than June 15."

There isn't a member of Congress who will admit the charge of disloyalty. And not a single one of the members would have to have his party charged with being a disloyal factor. Yet it is incontrovertible that if partisanship would get together and confer with the White House and decide upon a definite, well-planned war program this session could be brought to a conclusion in time to avoid the summer heat and the country would benefit immeasurably by the program—and those who do not propose this course would be charged with being disloyal.

The strange thing about it all is that Congress does not like to stay here and work, the people do not demand it, the President does not need Congress here all the time.

And yet Congress stays on and on, evincing little or no concerted action and making headway only with about one-tenth the speed that it would if spirited, patriotic appeal were to be lodged with every member by his constituents.

It is the bug of indecision and disinclination that stains the record of Congress. No one wants to interfere with the venerable policies of centuries. No one wants to propose such an audacious thing as a "coalition" Congress.

Coalition cabinets, of course, have been quite the rage in other countries in war time. But it would never do, according to our present plan of waging war, to supplant the present Congress with a body designed to forget national lines entirely and agree upon a definite program and put it through as a safety-first, get-there-Ell war program. Oh, no!

Some of the members would be glad to have a real conference and start something rolling. The number includes both Republicans and Democrats. If they started out to make their ideas count they could probably gain much headway—certainly, if they had the support of the President and of their principal leaders, this revolutionary change could be accomplished within a short time.

Isn't it the strangest thing in the world that with the pathway of success so dazzlingly illumined we poor mortals are prone to choose the path of failure which, although well-defined farther on, is nevertheless almost obscured at its source?

Poor, deluded mortals we are! Many a Congressman who reads this will be clattering along over the hot coals of the city next July or August almost as much as he over the accomplishment of needed steps for the continuation of the war as he is now, and probably more thoroughly convinced by that time that he has reached no business to come down and put in so much time doing the little things.

The only programs we have heard of on the Hill are political programs—and they are being made more for the subrosa observance than in open support. The effort seems to take on more of an individual aspect than before—it is each member for himself and "Billy" Sunday's enemy for them all. But what a wonderful inspiration there would be among the constituents of some of these men if they could be found to propose a coalition Congress, and a nonpartisan program to be put through AT ONCE.

We are not ungrateful enough to believe that the members are going to be brought to Uncle Sam's feet if a coalition Congress were to come to the front of the stage now. But we are convinced that if a nonpartisan

### A LINE O' CHEER EACH DAY O' THE YEAR.

By John Kendrick Bangs.

AMICABLE.  
I see no use  
In sharp abuse  
Of those who don't agree with me.  
Sometimes find  
In my own mind  
That with myself I don't agree.  
So truly I  
Cannot see why  
We can't dwell smiling side by side.  
You see you line,  
And I on mine  
And both completely satisfied.  
(Copyright, 1918.)

Congressional program was determined upon, and put through as such, it would bring victory to our standard quicker than it would be brought under the present plans.

And victory means lives and means dollars—think it over, Mr. Congressman.

A lawyer who has practiced for years and years leaned thoughtfully over the benches the other day while the Supreme Court was in session.

"My God," he said to a reporter who came up to interrupt his thoughts, "do you realize what a new outlook this court must have on life since war came to our land?"

"That's what we've considered very proper in the old days of 1813 and before are buried. We are living in a new day of thought. Action by the government may be anything, as long as it is in the days of meddling monarchs, or as splendidly democratic as they could have been thought of by a Populist platform-maker. One never knows quite what may happen—whether he will be impaled upon the sharp stick of imperial methods or forced to bow submissively to pronounced democratic doctrine. And a court, though it is a body essentially must interpret laws as the spirit of the people dictate. War demands it. The necessities of the occasion demand only one end to all litigation. That is, the decision body essential to the central thing just now as 'life, liberty and pursuit of happiness' by individuals. It is the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness by the nation. Nothing is never thought would twinkle before its members left this old world."

If German gold is behind the movement of the Bolsheviks in Russia, then the Germans are accomplishing these three things to eventually bring about their own downfall:

First, the inspiration of German anti-war propaganda to oppose the Hohenzollern crusade with more and more vigor.

Second, encouragement of the German soldiers who have been along the Russian border to learn more about and think better of the ways of democracy.

Third, a general accusation of the movement of democracy in all nations of the world; those allied with us, those connected with the central powers and those that are neutral.

The wild, uncultured Bolshevik warrior is due yet to have a most profound influence upon the coming of peace. He will not be the only factor that brings it about, but he may be one of the principal factors.

Some of the men who are making history at the present session of Congress are bound to be left at the post when the fall campaigns roll around. The strange aspect of many reports coming to Washington just now is that the members are going to be considered for re-election only on their general merits, and not upon their stand on some of the revolutionary legislation presented in Congress during our war period. Only in those cases where members were opposed to war are there likely to be fights made on patriotic lines.

Lord Byron cleverly hinted in his little poem—one sleep in morning when little and pleasure meet to chase the glowing hours with flying feet," but as Ruben Goldberg would say, "it's all wrong, Byron, it's all wrong, it's all wrong."

There are 125 cabarets providing dancing in New York just now, but there are very few dancing and most of the cabarets are empty at midnight. Midnight dancing is passing. A well-known Broadway rounder made a tour of the cabarets recently and found that the only places well filled were those exhibiting refined high-brow dances of the interpretive sort.

The dances of Mordkin and Pavlova, combining the spirit and grace of the Greeks, are the real thing. How New York used to laugh at these kind of dances a few years ago!

One of the characters of Broadway is Joe Leblanc, a stocky young fellow who sells cabaret theater tickets. He is a graduate of the University of Hard Knocks. Broadway cuffed him around for years in his effort to make a living.

He finally began the cabaret theater ticket business in a little hole in the wall on Sixth avenue. His shop was in the rear of a drug store and next he added quarters in the basement.

The other day he bought the drug store as an exit for his ticket place. Nobody seemed to know how Leblanc gets his tickets, but he does and he hob-nobs with the theatrical great in the bargain. He is fond of gay clothes and his sartorial adornments sometimes make even Broadway gasp.

An old negro mummy from New Orleans visited the Hippodrome the other day. When he came out Mark Luescher, the manager, asked her what she thought of the place. "Say, white man," she replied, "tell me what did you get so much out doors to build this heap place around."

ENRIGHT AGAINST CLUBBING.  
New York, Jan. 30.—Overruling advice of former Police Commissioner, Enright today that he would stand behind them in the use of their clubs, Mayor Hylan wrote Commissioner Enright today that he "does not approve of this method." He asks the commissioner to investigate an alleged clubbing in a Brooklyn saloon.

The Herald will tomorrow announce an exceedingly pleasant surprise for all policemen, firemen and mail carriers of Washington.

OPHELIA'S SLATE.

KEAP BUNNY HUGS AND KISS MUMMY BUD



New York, Jan. 31.—"Author's Row" is now established in an uptown hotel in Gotham. It so happened that the clicking of the numerous typewriters of the literary guests played hob with the nerves of other patrons and so the management placed the writers on one floor of the hotel.

Here they may pound their machines, build plots, smoke innumerable cigarettes and knock editors without any hindrance. Among those who are occupants of "Author's Row" are Arthur Somers Roche, writer of mystery novels; Edna Ferber, short-story queen; Burt L. Standish, manufacturer of real thrillers; George Randolph Chester, who created Wallingford; Ray Rohn, artist and detective story writer, and there are also a sprinkling of artists.

Most writers do their work at night. Some say it is laziness and others say the inspiration comes after a hush has fallen over the city. There is one writer who lives ten blocks from Times Square and who was offered a new hat every time he got to a certain cafe in Times Square by 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He has never been able to win a topper.

Temperament is a strange thing indeed. Or else why is it that one of our most celebrated novelists cannot write without smoking a corn cob pipe? He tried to write one novel and smoke only a fine meerschaum. He got through with it, but the publishers sent it back and he revamped it to the tune of the old corn cob and it proved one of the best six sellers.

There is another writer of special articles who cannot write except while wearing an old brown army shirt that he wore during the Spanish-American war. He has tried to give up the shirt, but the shirt is a thread bare and patched but it still brings the writing urge when donned.

But the strangest freak of temperament is exhibited by one of the best known magazine illustrators who never works without having a pocketful of red peppermint drops.

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OPHELIA'S SLATE.

KEAP BUNNY HUGS AND KISS MUMMY BUD

## Army and Navy News Best Service Column in the City

Washingtonians to the number of twenty-eight have been commissioned as officers, according to announcement made yesterday.

Edward McG. Bainter, 123 F street northwest, was commissioned major in the Ordnance Reserve Corps. This was the highest rank given. Three were commissioned captains. Norman E. Holt, 200 O street northwest, and Edward W. Nicholson, 123 F street northwest, were commissioned as captains in the Ordnance Reserve Corps and Victor E. Henderson, 136 K street northwest, was commissioned captain in the Aviation section of the Signal Officers' Reserve Corps.

Those commissioned in the Reserve Corps of the national army are: Kenneth H. Gordon, of the office of the chief of ordnance, and Alfred H. Lawson, 2615 Thirteenth street northwest, second lieutenants in the Ordnance Reserve Corps, national army.

James Benton Grant, 123 F street northwest, and Alfred Schaff, St. James Hotel, first lieutenants, Aviation section, Signal Officers' Reserve Corps.

Carl Richard Brown, office of Surgeon General, first lieutenant, Sanitary Corps, national army.

Twenty-three local men were commissioned in the Ordnance Reserve Corps. Philip P. Weisner, 123 F street northwest, Harry T. Worthington, Roger Birdsell, Harold Boeschens, Marshall De Angelis, Francis J. G. Dorsey, William L. Durrant, Thomas H. Howe, Harold L. Wilson, Frank H. Nagay, Loring P. Nichols, Frank E. Pershing, Howard M. Petrie, Richard E. Pritchard, Frank E. Rusk, Theodore R. Snyder, Robert F. A. Taylor and David Thompson were commissioned as second lieutenants in the Ordnance Reserve Corps.

Harold B. Barnett, 1224 Massachusetts avenue northwest, second lieutenant, Ordnance Reserve Corps.

William R. Keifer, office of chief signal officer and Oscar L. Lefters, 1616 New Hampshire avenue northwest, first lieutenants, Aviation section, Signal Reserve Corps, national army.

Hally M. Scott, 1623 Sixteenth street northwest, second lieutenant, Aviation section, Signal Reserve Corps, national army.

William C. Miller, Emergency Hospital, first lieutenant, Medical Reserve Corps, national army, and Joseph Francis Dyer, 201 F street northwest, first lieutenants, Medical Reserve Corps, national army.

Clyde P. Roeder, Camp Meigs, first lieutenant, Quartermaster Corps, national army.

Charles Waller, Army Medical Museum, first lieutenant, Sanitary Corps, national army.

Machinery will be provided for redistributing the maimed and afflicted United States soldiers who are returned to this country in a bill that will be introduced in the Senate by Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia.

The bill will be prepared and introduced, Senator Smith said, as soon as information has been received regarding the steps taken by the War Department to redistribute and make self-supporting their maimed and crippled soldiers.

This information has been asked of the War Department by the Senator, a bill was introduced by Senator Smith and passed last Monday.

The contemplated bill is expected to provide for the redistribution of the maimed and afflicted United States soldiers who are returned to this country in a bill that will be introduced in the Senate by Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia.

Several officers of the Aviation section of the Signal Officers' Reserve Corps, have been ordered here and assigned to duty in the office of the chief signal officer, of the army. Others of the Signal Officers' Reserve Corps have been ordered here for duty in the office of the chief of ordnance here. Aviation officers ordered here are:

Capt. John Samuel Martin Eley and Herbert Eugene Ives; First Lieut. Harley F. McCurdy, Maurice J. Carey, Burt A. Skellan, Clay Littleton and Edward Lewis, and Second Lieut. Robert B. Lindsey and Edgar R. Whitford.

Maj. David C. Seagrave, Capt. Ralph A. Hall, First Lieut. John J. Downey, William H. Wharton and Second Lieut. John W. Mahoney and Second Lieut. John W. Mahoney and Second Lieut. Johnson were ordered to duty in the office of the chief of ordnance.

In response to Secretary of the Navy Daniels' request that navy officers be included within the provisions of the law providing for supply of uniforms and accoutrements for the army, Representative Pott has introduced an amendment including naval officers within the provisions of the law.

The task Mr. Sherwood has doesn't call for reams of newspaper space, but the fact is that the angels must have written his name many, many times.

Congress discussed, with some solemnity, the distinguished features of seismology and volcanology and in the end, while no vote was taken, it was agreed by the hundred members present that there is no difference between them. That makes it unanimous now, for scientists said so some time ago.

### NEW BILL PUTS BAN ON D. C. PROFITEERS

Determined to push his bill, which would put a ban on profiteering in the District, Chairman Ben Johnston, of the House District Committee, yesterday sent out notices of a special meeting of the committee to be held in his office tomorrow morning.

It is expected that the bill will be immediately reported out by the committee, and it is thought that Chairman Johnston will ask for a special rule for its immediate consideration.

Representative Johnston's draft bills authorizing the government to take over the telephone and telephone lines here.

They are saying in Illinois that J. Ham Lewis may be back with us for another six years. The multiplicity of candidates in the Republican camp may bring about the nomination of Mayor Thompson, of Chicago, who is regarded as a "pud-din'" of a candidate for J. Ham to defeat.

On Washington's Birthday Representative Fess, of Massachusetts, will address the House on the subject of Washington's influence on modern government. There will be no dissenting voice to the sentiment that this influence is most pronounced in several respects.

Uniforms in our army are all wool—let the word go round—and Representative Shallenberger makes it plain that while there was talk some time ago of putting cotton in them, this was never done. There is some cotton in the overcoats, but that is all.

Some of the stories coming here indicate a decided need for a Hoover campaign in the army. There is no question but that there is wanton waste—why not see to it, Mr. Baker. We are all willing to save in our homes, but let's have a little of it at camp, too.

It may be an inconsequential work that Representative Shallenberger suggested, and yet we will say that he brings joy to a good many hundreds and thousands of hearts by his friendly attentions to pension matters for our civil war veterans and their widows. If more of the members could go into the little homes where these sums are received, they would think so, too.

RESORTS.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.  
Raymore World's Greatest  
ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.  
America's Famous All-Year Resort.

WILDWOOD, N. J.  
HOTEL DAYTON  
Open All Year.

50 cents a box, including war tax.  
For sale by all druggists.  
Eckman's Laboratory, Philadelphia.

50 cents a box, including war tax.  
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